

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 656

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Imagination Library
on the occasion of its 100 millionth donation.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should recognize and applaud those charitable organizations that have made great strides in bettering not only the State of Tennessee but the nation and the world; and

WHEREAS, one such invaluable institution is the Imagination Library, which recently donated its 100 millionth book, a copy of *Coat of Many Colors*, and presented it to the Library of Congress on February 27, 2018; and

WHEREAS, through the Dollywood Foundation, Tennessee's favorite daughter, Dolly Parton, started the Imagination Library in 1995, a program that delivers free, high-quality books to children from birth until they begin school, regardless of family income; and

WHEREAS, what began as a small project based in Ms. Parton's childhood home of Sevier County has since expanded to an international success that delivers to children in communities across the world. Efforts to replicate the program nationally began in 2000, which included Native American communities in 2002; it continued on into Canada in 2006, the United Kingdom in 2007, and Australia in 2013; and

WHEREAS, during its more than two decades of existence, the Imagination Library has grown from donating books to 2,000 children a month to donating to more than one million children a month; and

WHEREAS, other milestones that this fantastic organization has achieved include donating its one millionth book in 2003, presenting its twenty-five millionth book in 2010, providing Braille and audio book donations in 2011, and sending out one million books per month in 2016; and

WHEREAS, for its gallant efforts, the Imagination Library has received a number of awards and accolades, including the *Good Housekeeping* Seal of Approval and the Best Practices Award from the Library of Congress Literacy Awards; the organization also received recognition from the academic journal *Reading Psychology*; and

WHEREAS, the importance of reading in everyday life cannot be overstated, and the Imagination Library has truly committed itself to the vital task of fostering reading and literacy not only in the children of Tennessee, but in those throughout the nation and the world; and

WHEREAS, because of this venerable organization, multitudes of children have been able to experience the benefit and joy of reading, and as its 100 millionth donation, *Coat of Many Colors*, rests in the Library of Congress, the members of this General Assembly find it most appropriate to applaud the Imagination Library and its benevolent endeavor; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend the Imagination Library on the occasion of its 100 millionth donation, salute the organization's sterling effort to encourage reading, and extend our best wishes for every future success to all the individuals who are a part of this outstanding program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.